



performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records, the digital media records each having associated metadata;

logging the search results and the metadata associated with digital media records selected therein for which an interest is determined in the digital media records;

expanding the metadata, defining expanded query metadata results;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm, thereby grouping similar expanded query metadata results together;

identifying, using a semantic net hierarchy, a lowest-level term in the hierarchy that subsumes all of the expanded query metadata results in the grouping of expanded query metadata results; and

communicating the identified term to a user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

7. (Currently amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records or being empty;

logging the search requests for which the search result is empty;

expanding the logged search requests;

applying a statistical clustering algorithm to the logged search requests, thereby grouping similar search requests together; and

communicating a group of search requests to a user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the expanding is performed using a thesaurus.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the expanding is performed using a semantic net comprising synonyms and super-terms.

10. (Currently amended) A method for use with a system storing digital media records and comprising a search engine searching said stored digital media records, the system permitting user expressions of interest in particular stored digital media records, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving search requests from users;

performing, by the search engine, searches based upon the search requests, yielding respective search results, each search result defining selected digital media records;

logging the search requests for which a user has expressed interest in a selected digital media record;

expanding the logged search requests;

communicating a group of search requests to a user.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein a user expressing interest in a selected digital media record comprises the user placing the selected digital media record into an online projects folder or other work space.